

# Parental Involvement: It's Time to Meet the Teachers

The Arizona Informant August 3, 2005

Yes, the summer heat continues to keep our roasting bodies in captivity while the temperatures continue to soar well above the 100 degree mark. This had left little indication that the "school bell" will soon ring signaling yet, the beginning of another school year.

City pools, comfortable and cool theaters maintain capacity crowds for children of all ages, who may or may not have noticed that "the school bell will soon ring!"

Student work schedules, mall and movie dates or that last weekend to "Club Buzz" may soon come to an abrupt end, as parents make subtle reminders that another school year is about to begin.

As we prepare to have our children mentally reinstated to instruction and learning, parents and guardians must also add item or two to the top of their "To Do List".

This may be the beginning of a very special school year for many students, some of whom may embark upon for the first time, Preschool or Kindergarten. Lingering memories of the K-8 school and campus environment may soon dissipate for some students who will soon be identified as "freshman, sophomores, juniors and the graduating seniors of 2006.

Many demands will be placed upon our students as each sets food on their school grounds. This, we know can be an over-whelming experience, especially without the support of school administration, teachers and parents. Parents must do more than purchase new school apparel and school supplies and drop our children off on campus, with "smooches", hugs, and "goodbyes", followed by our departure for home or work.

Instead, plan to be on campus *one* day during the first week of school and **"Meet The Teachers!"**

Meeting your children's teachers is an important "first step" to building a relationship which can help to foster healthy communication between parents and the school.

Next, plan another visit when you can actually sit in the classroom to observe your child and teacher during instruction.

Also, plan to visit periodically throughout the school year. (Once is never enough!) This is especially important for parents of high school students as well. Parents should not hesitate to visit and/or check on academic progress, regardless of the age or grade of your child. A parent's presence sends the message that you *do* want to be

involved in ***your child's*** education. Remember, teachers alone can limit or enhance a student's drive for excellence.

When students fail, the teacher also fails. Teachers need to "believe" that every child can learn!

So, parents and guardians, I would like to encourage you to begin this school year by making plans ***to meet the teacher (s)!***

*"The Mediocre Teacher Tells"*  
*"The Good Teacher Explains"*  
*"The Superior Teacher Demonstrates"*  
*"The Great Teacher Inspires"*



By Dr. Ann A Hart